

Applicant : Ke Han et al.  
Serial No. : 10/799,543  
Filed : March 11, 2004  
Page : 2 of 13

Attorney's Docket No.: MP0413 / 13361-072001

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:  
obtaining an output signal sequence from a partial response channel;  
determining an input sequence of the partial response channel by maximizing cross-correlation of an estimated output sequence with the obtained output sequence, the estimated output sequence being estimated based on the partial response channel; and  
providing an output corresponding to the determined input sequence;  
wherein said determining the input sequence comprises employing Viterbi detection using a cross-correlation branch metric; and  
wherein the partial response channel has a transfer function defined according to a target polynomial,  $T(D) = p_0 + p_1D + \dots + p_M D^M$ , the Viterbi detection operates according to a trellis having  $2^M$  states, and all survivor paths associated with all the  $2^M$  states in the trellis merge in  $M$  steps.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)

Applicant : Ke Han et al.  
Serial No. : 10/799,543  
Filed : March 11, 2004  
Page : 3 of 13

Attorney's Docket No.: MP0413 / 13361-072001

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said providing the output corresponding to the determined input sequence comprises providing the determined input sequence to an additional sequence processing component.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the output signal sequence comprises a convolution of the input sequence and a target polynomial of the partial response channel.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the partial response channel comprises a data storage medium, and said obtaining the output signal sequence comprises sampling a signal generated from the data storage medium.

7.. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium embodying information indicative of instructions for causing one or more machines to perform operations comprising:

obtaining an output signal sequence from a partial response channel;

determining an input sequence of the partial response channel by maximizing cross-correlation of an estimated output sequence with the obtained output sequence, the estimated output sequence being estimated based on the partial response channel; and

providing an output corresponding to the determined input sequence;

wherein said determining the input sequence comprises employing Viterbi detection using a cross-correlation branch metric; and

wherein the partial response channel has a transfer function defined according to a target polynomial,  $T(D) = p_0 + p_1D + \dots + p_M D^M$ , the Viterbi detection operates according to a trellis

Applicant : Ke Han et al.  
Serial No. : 10/799,543  
Filed : March 11, 2004  
Page : 4 of 13

Attorney's Docket No.: MP0413 / 13361-072001

having  $2^M$  states, and all survivor paths associated with all the  $2^M$  states in the trellis merge in  $M$  steps.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 7, wherein providing the output corresponding to the determined input sequence comprises providing the determined input sequence to an additional sequence processing component.

11. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 7, wherein the output signal sequence comprises a convolution of the input sequence and a target polynomial of the partial response channel.

12. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 7, wherein the partial response channel comprises a data storage medium, and said obtaining the output signal sequence comprises sampling a signal generated from the data storage medium.

Applicant : Kc Han et al.  
Serial No. : 10/799,543  
Filed : March 11, 2004  
Page : 5 of 13

Attorney's Docket No.: MP0413 / 13361-072001

13. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a branch metric generator that generates branch metrics comprising a cross-correlation of obtained output sequences and estimated output sequences for a partial response channel;

an add-compare-select component that compares paths and determines survivor paths using generated branch metrics;

a memory that retains metrics information; and

a trace-back component that determines a best path of the survivor paths and outputs sequence information based on the determined best path;

wherein the partial response channel has a transfer function defined according to a target polynomial,  $T(D) = p_0 + p_1D + \dots + p_M D^M$ , and all the survivor paths merge in  $M$  steps.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the add-compare-select component compares paths and determines survivor paths by maximizing a quantity defined according to an equation,  $\sum_{k=0}^N y_k \cdot y_k^*$ , where  $N$  corresponds to a sequence length,  $y_k$  corresponds to a real channel output, and  $y_k^*$  corresponds to an estimated channel output.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 13 [[15]], wherein the memory comprises a path memory of length  $M$ .

Applicant : Ke Han et al.  
Serial No. : 10/799,543  
Filed : March 11, 2004  
Page : 6 of 13

Attorney's Docket No.: MP0413 / 13361-072001

17. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:  
means for obtaining an output signal sequence from a partial response channel;  
means for determining an input sequence of the partial response channel by maximizing cross-correlation of an estimated output sequence with the obtained output sequence, the estimated output sequence being estimated based on the partial response channel; and  
means for providing an output corresponding to the determined input sequence;  
wherein said means for determining comprises Viterbi means for generating a cross-correlation branch metric; and  
wherein the partial response channel has a transfer function defined according to a target polynomial,  $T(D) = p_0 + p_1 D + \dots + p_M D^M$ , the Viterbi means operates according to a trellis having  $2^M$  states, and all survivor paths associated with all the  $2^M$  states in the trellis merge in  $M$  steps.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the partial response channel comprises a data storage medium.

Applicant : Ke Han et al.  
Serial No. : 10/799,543  
Filed : March 11, 2004  
Page : 7 of 13

Attorney's Docket No.: MP0413 / 13361-072001

21. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

an input line that provides a sampled channel sequence; and

Viterbi detection means for determining a recovered sequence from the sampled channel sequence, the Viterbi detection means including means for maximizing cross-correlation of the recovered sequence and the sampled channel sequence;

wherein the sampled channel sequence comprises a waveform of widely varying amplitude, and the Viterbi detection means provides robust tolerance of phase uncertainty with the widely varying amplitude waveform.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Original) The system of claim 21, further comprising a head-disk assembly comprising the input line.

24. (Currently Amended) A data storage system comprising:

an input line that provides a sampled channel sequence from a data storage medium; and

Viterbi detection means for determining a recovered sequence from the sampled channel sequence, the Viterbi detection means including means for maximizing cross-correlation of the recovered sequence and the sampled channel sequence;

wherein the sampled channel sequence comprises a waveform of widely varying amplitude, and the Viterbi detection means provides robust tolerance of phase uncertainty with the widely varying amplitude waveform.

Applicant : Ke Han et al.  
Serial No. : 10/799,543  
Filed : March 11, 2004  
Page : 8 of 13

Attorney's Docket No.: MP0413 / 13361-072001

25. (Canceled)

26. (Original) The system of claim 24, further comprising a head-disk assembly comprising the input line.